

ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (EA/EIS)

Part I. Proposed Action Description

Applicant/Contact Name & Address: Stillwater Mining Company, c/o Randy Weimer, P.O. Box 1330. Columbus, MT 59019

Type of Action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 43C 30110599

Location Affected by Action: Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 21 T5S R16E, Stillwater County

Narrative Summary of Proposed Action: The applicant proposes to divert water from the groundwater, by means of a mining decline in the Madison Group Aquifer and underlying Cambrian-Ordovician aquifers, from January 1 to December 31 at 250 GPM up to 130.0 AF, from a point in the SENESE Section 20 T5S R16E (PB 40), Stillwater County, for industrial use from January 1 to December 31. The place of use includes the portal for underground mining and all locations where dust suppression may be conducted. The place of use is limited to National Forest Service lands and National Forest Service right-of-way.

Part II. Existing Environmental Review Information

Title: Environmental Assessment for Stillwater Mining Company's Benbow Exploration Portal and Support Facilities Plan of Operations for Mineral Exploration

Publication Date: May 27, 2015

Lead Agency: United States Forest Service, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Location Where Interested Parties Can View or Obtain the Document:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45224>

Part III. Criteria for Adopting Existing Environmental Review

- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No Does the existing environmental review cover an action paralleling or closely related to the proposed action?
- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No Is the information in the existing environmental review accurate and clearly presented?
- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No Is the information in the existing environmental review applicable to the action being considered?
- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No Were all appropriate Agencies consulted during preparation of the existing environmental review?
- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No Were alternatives to the proposed action evaluated as part of the existing environmental review effort?
- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No Have all of the impacts of the proposed action been accurately identified as part of the existing environmental review?
- ☒_X_ Yes ☐_No If the existing environmental review identifies any significant impacts as a result of the proposed action, will they be mitigated below the level of significance?

Part IV. Conclusion

If the answers to ALL of the questions listed above are "Yes", the existing environmental review can be considered sufficient to satisfy DNRC's MEPA review responsibilities.

Yes___ No___**X** Based on the criteria evaluated in the existing EA, is an EIS required?

Name: Mark Elison

Title: Hydrologist

Date: 6/6/2017

Signature: _____